

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04001 01 OF 02 061433Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----061450Z 083528 /44

O P 061308Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515 IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 4001

EXDIS

BUCHAREST FOR VIETS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, IS, US, OREP (STONE, RICHARD B.)
SUBJECT: CODEL STONE MEETING WITH YADIN

BEGIN SUMMARY: SENATOR RICHARD STONE, WITH AMBASSADOR
AND STAFF, ATTENDED BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 5 WITH
PROFESSOR YIGAEI YADIN OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR
CHANGE (DMC). IT WAS A FRANK SESSION--FRIENDLY
AND OPEN, IN WHICH STONE REPEATEDLY URGED YADIN "IN
THE BROADER INTEREST OF ISRAELI AND U.S.-ISRAELI
RELATIONS" TO JOIN THE COALITION, AFTER DRIVING AS
GOOD A BARGAIN AS POSSIBLE WITH BEGIN. YADIN REMAINED
VERY MUCH ON THE FENCE AND IS DEEPLY TORN BY HIS
AGONIZING CHOICE. END SUMMARY

1. STONE STARTED OVER ORANGE JUICE BY SAYING IT
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WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT AMERICAN PUBLIC AND
CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WAS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE
DMC'S JOINING THE COALITION. HE STRESSED THAT THE
DMC "OWED IT TO U.S. PUBLIC OPINION" THAT THE
PARTY MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT AS A RESPONSIBLE
REFORM ELEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT. ONE ARGUMENT
HE EMPLOYED WAS THAT CONGRESS IS ANXIOUS GRADUALLY

TO SHIFT THE BALANCE IN U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FROM MILITARY TOWARD ECONOMIC, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS ELSEWHERE; AND THE DMC'S EMPHASIS ON INTERNAL REFORM WOULD BE SEEN AS A POSITIVE FACTOR IN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICY. ANOTHER ARGUMENT FOR JOINING WAS THAT, IF THE COURSE OF EVENTS IS SUCH THAT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION TO SEE THAT ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITIONS HAD EMOVED OUT OF A VIGOROUS, OPEN DEBATE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION IN WHICH THE DMC'S MODERATE VIEWS HAD BEEN GIVEN FULL WEIGHT.

2. YADIN REPLIED THAT FOREIGN POLICIES ISSUES, AND SPECIFICALLY THE TERRITORIES, ARE AT THE HEART OF DISCUSSIONS WITH BEGIN. HE STRESSED THAT, UNLIKE BEGIN, HE HEADS A VERY "DEMOCRATIC" PARTY, AND WHATEVER IS AGREED TO BETWEEN HIMSELF AND BEGIN HAS TO BE ACCEPTED OPENLY BY THE DMC COUNCIL. HE MUST THEREFORE BE VERY CAREFUL AND PRECISE IN THE FORMULATION OF ANY COALITION AGREEMENT. (YADIN SAID HE HAS ALSO MADE THIS POINT OF COMPARISON TO BEGIN.) STONE RESPONDED THAT PRECISE AGREEMENTS NOW MIGHT NOT COVER DIFFERENT ISSUES IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT A COALITION AGREEMENT SHOULD BE BROADLY WORDED AND SHOULD BE ONE WHICH ENABLES THE DMC TO SPEAK OUT AND WHICH ENSURES THAT RESPECT TO WHICH IT IS ENTITLED AS A COALITION PARTNER. YADIN RESPONDED THAT, AS A PARTNER IN A GOVERNMENT

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COALITION, THE DMC WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THAT COALITION IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND CERTAINLY IN VOTES OF CONFIDENCE IN THE KNESSET. STONE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT THAT HE HOPED YADIN REALIZED THAT THE DMC IS CURRENTLY VERY "HOT," (I.E., HAS REAL LEVERAGE TO AFFECT ISRAELI POLICY), AND THAT THE DMC SHOULD NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE.

3. REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE AMBASSADOR, YADIN SAID THAT THE DMC WILL REMAIN FIRMLY UNITED, WHATEVER THEIR FINAL DECISION. (NOTE: OTHERS HERE THINK IT COULD SPLIT.) PARADOXICALLY, HE SAID, THE DAYAN APPOINTMENT HAS STRENGTHENED DMC

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O P 061308Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6516
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 4001

EXDIS

BUCHAREST FOR VIETS

UNITY, BECAUSE MANY DMC MEMBERS HAVE PUBLICLY
ATTACKED DAYAN FOR "OPPORTUNISM" AND LACK OF
PARTY LOYALTY.

4. YADIN SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF WEST BANK
SETTLEMENTS IS BOTH AN ILLUSTRATIVE AND A SUB-
STANTIVE ISSUE--IT ILLUSTRATES THE GAP BETWEEN
THE DMC AND THE LIKUD AND IS ITSELF AN IMPORTANT
ISSUE ON WHICH AN AGREED POLICY MUST BE REACHED.
THIS AND OTHER ISSUES WILL REQUIRE WISDOM AND
COURAGE AND HE DOES NOT BELIEVE A COALITION
AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE WITHIN A SHORT TIME. HE
IS AWARE BEGIN WANTS TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE BEFORE THE JUNE 21 HISTADRUT ELECTION,
BUT HE WILL NOT BE RUSHED. HE BELIEVES TWO OR
THREE WEEKS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CLARIFY THE
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ISSUES ADEQUATELY. THE QUESTION FOR THE DMC
REMAINS: ONCE THE WOOING IS OVER AND THE EUPHORIA
OF JOINING THE GOVERNMENT PASSES, WHAT KIND OF
AGREEMENT WILL THE PARTY HAVE?

5. YADIN SAID THE PUBLIC AND HIS PARTY WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED ON THE DAYAN APPOINTMENT. IT WILL BE A PROBLEM FOR THE DMC BUT OTHER ISSUES ARE MORE IMPORTANT NOW. DAYAN IS A PRAGMATIST AND CHANGES HIS VIEWS, BUT HIS POSITION ON THE WEST BANK WILL GIVE THE DMC PROBLEMS: THE DMC SAYS THE ARAB-OCCUPIED PORTION OF THE TERRITORIES SHOULD BE RETURNED IF ISRAEL IS TO REMAIN A JEWISH DEMOCRATIC STATE, BUT DAYAN SAYS OTHERWISE HIS VIEWPOINT WITHIN THE CABINET WOULD BE ADDED TO THAT OF BEGIN, WEIZMAN, SHARON AND HAMMER. DAYAN'S PERSONAL HISTORY HAS "NOT BEEN ONE OF MODEL PUBLIC BEHAVIOR," AND BEGIN'S HANDLING OF HIS INTENTION TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT WAS TACTICALLY A BAD MISTAKE. ALL THESE FACTORS MAKE THE DAYAN CASE DIFFICULT AND ONE WHICH IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND ABROAD, BUT THE DMC WILL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN IT COMES TO IT. ATTENTION MUST FIRST BE DEVOTED TO THE BROADER QUESTION OF A COALITION AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

6. COMMENT: YADIN WAS GOING LATER THAT MORNING INTO A NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH THE LIKUD, AND HE WAS CLEARLY DISTURBED AT PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF HIS NEGOTIATION POSITION IN THE MORNING PAPERS. HE ADMITTED THE DMC REMAINS SHARPLY DIVIDED, AND IS HIMSELF VERY AMBIVALENT. HE SAYS NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROKEN OFF IF HE WERE NOT SO DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE BROAD IMPLICATIONS OF A RIGHT-WING, LIKUD DOMINATED GOVERNMENT FOR

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THE PEACE PROCESS AND FOR THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS. YADIN REMAINS UNSURE OF HIS ABILITY TO LEAD HIS NEW PARTY THROUGH THESE VERY TREACHEROUS SHOALS, AND CHARACTERIZES HIMSELF (PERHAPS ACCURATELY) AS UNABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL ON HIS COLLEAGUES. ALL IN ALL, HE CAME ACROSS IN THIS MEETING AS A VERY WORRIED MAN. BUT STONE LEFT NO POSSIBLE DOUBT AS TO WHAT "AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION" WOULD LIKE HIM TO DO.

7. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY SENATOR STONE. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CODELS, MEETING REPORTS, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Message ID: 05273984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2257046
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL STONE MEETING WITH YADIN BEGIN SUMMARY: SENATOR RICHARD STONE, WITH AMBASSADOR AND STAFF, ATTENDED BREAKFAST MEETING JUNE 5 WITH
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, OREP, IS, US, DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE, (STONE, RICHARD), (YADIN, YIGAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/05273984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009